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August 21, 1980

GRANTS AID HURRICANE
VICTIMS AND REFUGEES

NEW YORK -- Four emergency grants by the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief will help victims of Hurricane Allen and refugees in southern California.

Three grants have been made to help victims of Hurricane Allen which cut a wide path of destruction through the Caribbean area from St. Lucia to Mexico and the Texas Gulf Coast in early August. By mid-August, at least 275 were known dead and damages were counted in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Thousands were left homeless across a chain of islands, many of which are known as luxurious vacation spots.

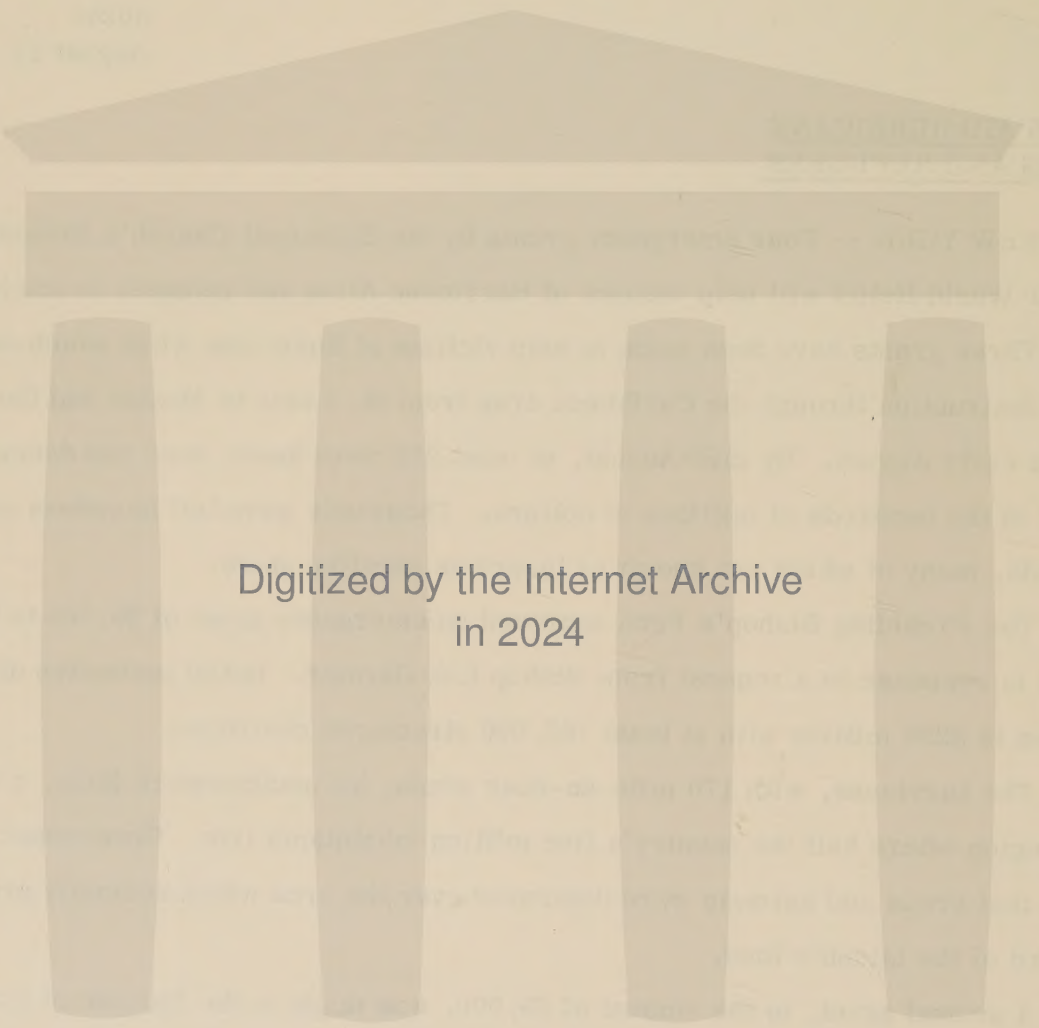
The Presiding Bishop's Fund approved an emergency grant of \$6,000 to the Diocese of Haiti in response to a request from Bishop Luc Garnier. Initial estimates of damage in Haiti run to \$200 million with at least 165,000 structures destroyed.

The hurricane, with 170 mile-an-hour winds, hit southwestern Haiti, a mountainous rural region where half the country's five million inhabitants live. Government reports indicated that crops and animals were destroyed over the area which normally provides about one-third of the island's food.

A second grant, in the amount of \$5,000, was made to the Diocese of Northern Mexico in response to an urgent request from Bishop Leonardo Romero. The grant will assist in making building repairs and providing disaster relief at Matamores and surrounding villages.

While the damage in Mexico was relatively minor, some 60,000 persons had to flee low-lying areas to emergency shelters and thousands of tourists had to be evacuated. Many homes in the Diocese of Northern Mexico were damaged or destroyed.

A third grant for aid to hurricane victims was made by the Fund to Church World Service (CWS), the relief agency of the National Council of Churches. The Fund's emergency grant for \$10,000 was towards CWS's goal of \$200,000 from member-churches. The CWS appeal is to provide assistance throughout the area devastated by Hurricane Allen.



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The storm, classified as one of the worst on record, registered winds up to 185 miles an hour.

An emergency three-month grant of \$3,000 was made to the Diocese of Los Angeles to fund its Sponsorship and Resettlement Office at St. Anselm's Church in Garden Grove. The diocese expects Church World Service to fund the ecumenical project beginning Oct. 1.

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